



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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### **Idaho Rivers Expected Run High into Early Summer**

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Near record high snow packs in the central and southern mountains will likely keep many of Idaho's rivers and streams running high into the month of July, according to members of the Idaho Water Supply Committee, which met today at IDWR Headquarters in Boise.

"The people who control or manage our water are going to have their hands full," said Hydrologist Phil Morrissey, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Snow Survey Office, which has measured some snow packs at more than 170-percent of normal in the high elevations of Big Wood and Lost River Basins. For the first time since 1999, snow depths throughout the State are 100-percent of average or better. That's great news for Idaho's irrigation supply but it could mean flooding problems later this spring.

Weather patterns in the coming weeks will determine how widespread the flooding potential will be. For instance, the Boise River is running right at flood stage - 7,000 cubic feet per second. Water managers expect to maintain flows at that level for several weeks to come. "If the weather doesn't cooperate, we could be looking at higher flows on the Boise," Bureau of Reclamation Water Operations Manager Brian Sauer told the committee. More flooding is also expected on other rivers like the Big Wood, and the Portneuf.

The National Weather Service's ten-day forecast calls for mild temperatures with little precipitation, but if the weather turns hot, or wet, or both, there could be flooding problems across much of Idaho. "It'll take near perfect weather conditions to get out of this without any further problems," Weather Service Hydrologist Jay Breidenbach told the committee.

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